UNITED NATIONS **E**

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/2002/135
25 February 2002

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Fifty-eighth session
Item 20 of the provisional agenda

RATIONALIZATION OF THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION

Note by the secretariat

1. On 8 October 2001, the President of the Economic and Social Council addressed a letter to the Chairperson of the fifty-seventh session of the Commission on Human Rights drawing the attention of the Commission to the policy recommendations adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2001 which should be taken into account in the work of its subsidiary bodies. Attached to the letter was a list of resolutions, agreed conclusions and decisions adopted by the Council specifically calling for action by its functional commissions. The President of the Economic and Social Council requested that the policy recommendations be brought to the attention of the Commission and that the necessary action be taken to implement them. Pursuant to that request, the letter of the President of the Economic and Social Council is reproduced in annex I below.*

2. The Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights, in his letter of 26 November 2001 addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council, indicated that follow-up to the guidance of the Economic and Social Council would be among the issues that the Bureau of the Commission would continue to discuss during the inter-sessional period, and it might decide to make specific recommendations in that regard to the Commission at its fifty-eighth session. The letter of the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights is reproduced below in annex II.*

---

* Reproduced as received, in the original language only.

Annex I

The President
of the
Economic and Social Council

8 October 2001

Dear Mr. Despouy,

I should like to draw your attention to the outcome of the July 2001 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. As mandated by General Assembly resolution 50/227, the Council has continued to make efforts to strengthen its coordination and guidance roles vis-à-vis its subsidiary bodies. It is important that the policy recommendations adopted by the Council be taken into account in the work of its subsidiary bodies. I would therefore appreciate it if efforts could be made to systematically follow up on the policy decisions adopted by the Council.

The list of resolutions, agreed conclusions and decisions adopted by the Council specifically calling for action by functional commissions is attached for your ready reference (see annex). I would like to draw your particular attention to resolution 2001/27, providing guidance for further improving the working methods of the functional commissions.

You will note, for example, that in this resolution, the Council has issued a standing invitation to its functional commissions to provide concise, action-oriented input to its annual high-level and/or coordination segments (op.3). I am pleased to inform you that a decision on the themes for 2002 has already been taken (see Council decision 2001/299), which should facilitate the preparation of any input your Commission may wish to make.

The Council also encouraged its functional commissions to consider how best to ensure continuity in the work of their successive Bureaux (op.5). The Council would welcome any views your Commission may have on this subject.

The Council further provided a number of recommendations on the working methods, as well as on substantive issues dealt with by the functional commissions (see op. 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22). In this regard, your Commission may find of interest the consolidated report on the work of the functional commissions in 2001 (E/2001/95) as it provides an overview of the substantive as well as procedural aspects of the commissions' work. Details on the terms of reference and working methods of functional commissions can be found in document E/2001/INF/3.

The Council also adopted draft resolutions submitted to it for action by functional commissions, including your own. The Council intends to devote some attention to this issue, and has requested the Secretary-General to include in the next consolidated report an analysis of the practice of its functional commissions in the preparation of draft resolutions for action by the Council or the General Assembly, with a view to elaborating guidelines addressed to the functional commissions on the submission of draft proposals to it (resolution 2001/27, op 4).

Mr. Leandro Despouy
Chairperson
Commission on Human Rights

Furthermore, I should like to draw the attention of your Commission to the Ministerial Declaration of the Council's high-level segment on "The role of the United Nations in support of the efforts of African countries to achieve sustainable development", and to its agreed conclusions on "The role of the United Nations in promoting development, particularly with respect to access to and transfer of knowledge and technology, especially information and communications technologies, inter alia, through partnerships with relevant stakeholders, including the private sector". While these are not specifically addressed for action to the functional commissions, their policy and action recommendations could usefully be integrated also into the work of the functional commissions.

I should be grateful if you would bring the policy recommendations to the attention of your Commission and take the necessary action to implement them. It would be appreciated if you would communicate to us any specific follow-up actions. Thank you for your cooperation in these matters, which will further enhance the coordination of the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies.

Martin Belinga-Eboutou

Annex

List of resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council in 2001 requiring follow-up action by the functional commissions

2001/27:	Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 52/12B: improving the working methods of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council (entire resolution)
2001/39:	Genetic privacy and non-discrimination (op. 6)
2001/41:	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (op 3)
2001/299:	Decision on the themes for the high-level and coordination segments of the substantive session of 2002 of the Economic and Social Council
2001/304:	Confidentiality of 1503 (confidential communications) procedure (Commission on Human Rights) (decision)
2001/21:	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits (for information)

Annex II

NATIONS UNIES
HAUT COMMISSARIAT AUX DROITS DE L'HOMME

UNITED NATIONS
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Télefax: (41-22) 917-90-11
Télégrammes: UNATIONS, GENEVE
Télex: 41 29 62
Téléphone: (41-22) 917-92-60
Internet www.unhchr.ch
E-mail: mfize-charmn.hchr@unog.ch

Address:
Palais des Nations
CH-1211 GENEVE 10

REFERENCE: G/SO212/24 (57th)

26 November 2001

Dear Mr. President,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 8 October 2001 concerning the outcome of the July 2001 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. In your letter, you have underlined that the policy recommendations adopted by the Council should be taken into account in the work of its subsidiary bodies. You have also requested that the policy recommendations adopted by the Council in 2001 be brought to the attention of the Commission on Human Rights for appropriate action.

I should like to take this opportunity to inform that the Bureau of the 57th session of the Commission on Human Rights had been made aware by its predecessor (the Bureau of the 56th session) of the policy recommendations set forth by the Council, in particular as they related to the work of its functional commissions. The current Bureau has remained seized of the matter pending further consultations at the level of the regional groups. In accordance with established practice, copy of your letter and its annex (including the texts of the resolutions and of relevant ECOSOC documents) were forwarded to the members of the Expanded Bureau of the Commission. Furthermore, follow-up to ECOSOC guidance will be among the issues that the Bureau will continue to discuss during the inter-sessional period. In this regard, it may decide to make specific recommendations to the Commission on Human Rights at its 58th session..

I will bring to your attention any new developments that may arise in this connection.

Yours sincerely,

Leandro Despouy
Chairperson of the 57th session
of the Commission on Human Rights

His Excellency
Mr. Martin Belinga-Eboutou
President
Economic and Social Council
New York